

repairs outside of the normal appropriations process.

By nature high-speed rail funding are immediate economic generators. Under H.R. 2354, the 15th District is slated to lose more than \$495 million in funding awarded to four high-speed rail projects in our district. The projects that would be derailed are the development of new train stations in Ann Arbor and Dearborn, the joint Midwest Regional Rail passenger rail equipment purchase, and the rehabilitation and improvement of track between Kalamazoo and Dearborn. This rescission will result in the loss of as many as 13,008 jobs.

And as if cutting funds for mass transit were not enough, H.R. 2354 also seeks to eviscerate the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing loan program, which helps automakers and suppliers produce more fuel efficient vehicles and decrease U.S. dependence on foreign oil. This is the height of folly and quite frankly indefensible.

Mr. Chair, for all of these reasons and more, I oppose H.R. 2354 and urge my colleagues to do so as well. Their children and grandchildren will thank them if they do.

TRIBUTE TO THORNE MAGINNIS  
AND OTHER YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS  
FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS  
ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE  
OF THE 37TH CONGRESSIONAL  
DISTRICT

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 15, 2011*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, it is no exaggeration to say that the past few years have been among the challenging in our nation's history. The collapse of the housing market, the turmoil on Wall Street and the ensuing financial crisis, the severe economic downturn resulting in the loss of millions of middle-class jobs, and the ever present threat of terrorist attacks on our homeland are enough to make many question whether the American Dream is still attainable and to conclude that our best days are behind us.

I do not share this view. The future of our country is bright and I firmly believe that our best days lie ahead. One of the reasons I am so optimistic that 21st century will be known as the second "American Century" is the extraordinary quality, talent, commitment, and energy of the young people who will in time assume the responsibility of leadership.

Members of Congress know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

I rise today to pay tribute to the wonderful young men and women who have done this work in my office for my constituents.

Today, I bid farewell to an extraordinary young man, Thorne Maginnis, who joined my team in January of last year and who will be moving on to attend law school this fall at the University of Virginia. From his first day on my staff Thorne's talents as writer, analyst, and researcher were apparent for all to observe. These gifts, combined with his winning personality and cooperative spirit made him an invaluable staffer and a valued friend to his colleagues, who all will miss his good cheer but wish him well in his future endeavors, which I am confident will include continued service in furtherance of the public interest.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. When I was six years old I dreamed of becoming a public servant when I grew up so I could help others. As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King once said:

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated and I wish to acknowledge them. They are: Devin Benavidez, Elliott Bluffer, Laura Sisemore, Chris Robinson, Carlos Jurado, Jerry Boies, Sunjay Bhatia, Jazmine Florence, and Renata Harris. In past years, my office has benefitted from the contributions of other volunteers, including Helen Lei, Navy San, Chris Prado, Jimmie Luthuli, Erika Wright, Peter Ward, Alyce Boatwright, Tom DeMaio, and Brittni Hamilton.

Mr. Speaker, the infusion of energy, intelligence, and idealism young people bring to their internships in my office and those of my colleagues helps keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

This is why I am so optimistic about our country's prospects for the future. As Margaret Mead said:

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great and as they age, they will ensure she stays forever young.

THE MEK STILL WAITS

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 15, 2011*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, almost a year ago to the day, on July 16, 2010, the U.S. Court of Appeals ordered the U.S. State Department to go back and re-evaluate the "terrorist" designation of the MEK. Since then, the State Department has stalled. At hearings and in letter after letter, Congress has asked for updates but the State Department just

plays the same tape over and over "we're working on it."

What exactly is taking so long? We haven't seen any new evidence. All the old evidence, classified and unclassified, does not describe a terrorist group, but a bunch of people that want to be free. They have given up their weapons, forsworn terrorism, and only ask that they can live in peace without being massacred by Iraqi troops or Iranian agents. Enough with the stalling. The State Department needs to get its act together and make a decision. If there is evidence of terrorism, show us. But if there is not, then take this group off the list today.

And that's just the way it is.

IN SUPPORT OF KOREAN WAR  
MEMORIAL WALL

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 15, 2011*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to introduce—together with Representatives SAM JOHNSON, HOWARD COBLE, JOHN CONYERS, JR., and JOHN DINGELL—a bill to amend legislation authorizing the Korean War Veterans Memorial to permit the addition of a Wall of Remembrance. P.L. 99-527 stated as a priority ". . . to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Korean War, particularly those who were killed in action, are still missing in action, or were held as prisoners of war." This bill seeks to further honor those who gave their lives to preserve freedom, not only for the Republic of Korea but for the entire non-communist world. To the 33,686 Americans killed in action this was not an abstract geopolitical issue, nor was it a "cold war." The Korean War, fought some 60 years ago, was a desperate fight to stop the spread of totalitarian regimes and signaled to North Korea that the United States would support our friends and allies.

The Korean War is sometimes referred to as the "forgotten war," a footnote between the Second World War and the Vietnam War. The sacrifice our young men paid to preserve our freedom should not be forgotten. This legislation will ensure that their deeds will be memorialized for all Americans to see on our National Mall. For, as the "greatest generation" of Americans fought World War II to save the world for democracy, the Korean War generation of Americans fought to save the world from communism.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 1995. It is an extraordinarily moving memorial. Our legislation will permit, through private sector contributions, a glass Wall of Remembrance to encircle the outer edge of the existing Memorial Pool. This wall will list the Americans killed in action by name, and will list the wounded, missing in action, and prisoners of war by number. It will also honor the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) that served alongside their U.S. comrades in American units to maintain our frontline combat strengths. Over 8,000 members of the KATUSA gave their lives for their country and ours. Their names were lost to history, but their numbers deserve recognition for the sacrifices that would otherwise have been American casualties. This bill